

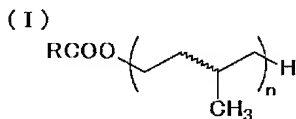
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-22 (Canceled).

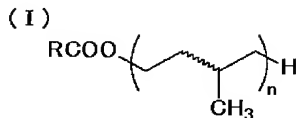
Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method for inhibiting bone absorption comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the following general formula (I) set-out in claim 22:



wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group,
the wavy line means a single or double bond,
n represents an integer ranging from 1 to 14, provided that when n is 2 or
higher, the wavy lines may be the same or different, and
the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters has 2 to 30
carbon atoms.

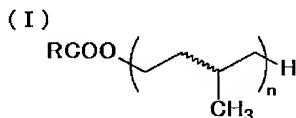
Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method for promoting bone formation comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, as the active ingredient, chain

isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the following general formula (I) set out in claim 22:



wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group,
the wavy line means a single or double bond,
n represents an integer ranging from 1 to 14, provided that when n is 2 or
higher, the wavy lines may be the same or different, and
the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters has 2 to 30
carbon atoms.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 22, wherein A method
for improving bone metabolism comprising administering to a subject in need
thereof, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by
the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group,
the wavy line means a single or double bond,

n represents an integer ranging from 1 to 14, provided that when n is 2 or higher, the wavy lines may be the same or different, and

the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters has 2 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a linear unsaturated fatty acid.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 26, wherein the linear unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of n-6 type unsaturated fatty acids, n-3 type unsaturated fatty acids and conjugated fatty acids.

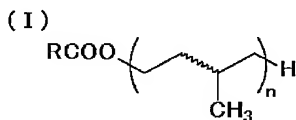
Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the n-6 type unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, γ -linolenic acid, bis-homo- γ -linolenic acid and arachidonic acid.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the n-3 type unsaturated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of α -linolenic acid, stearidonic acid, eicosatetraenoic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosapentaenoic acid and docosahexaenoic acid.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 27, wherein the conjugated fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member selected from the group consisting of conjugated linoleic acid and α -eleostearic acid.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 22 ~~33~~, wherein the alcohol constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is a member ~~selecte~~selected from the group consisting of geraniol, farnesol, geranyl geranol ~~geraniol~~, phytol and dihydrophytol.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): ~~The method of claim 22, wherein~~ A method for improving bone metabolism comprising administering to a subject in need thereof, as the active ingredient, chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters represented by the following general formula (I):



wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group,
the wavy line means a single or double bond,
n represents an integer ranging from 1 to 14, provided that when n is 2 or higher, the wavy lines may be the same or different, and
the alcohol constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters is one derived from vegetable oils and fats.

$$(I) \quad \text{RCOO}-(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)-$$

n is 2 to 4 in the general formula (I).

Claims 34 - 36 (Canceled).

(I)

$$\text{RCOO}-(\text{CH}_2-\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3))_n\text{H}$$

wherein R represents a hydrocarbon functional group,

the wavy line means a single or double bond,

n represents an integer ranging from 1 to 14, provided that when n is 2 or higher, the wavy lines may be the same or different, and

the fatty acid constituting the chain isoprenoid fatty acid esters has 2 to 30 carbon atoms.